

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS:DTM

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APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL

EA/LC:LMRIVES

S/S - MR. GAMMON

DOD/ISA:HAMOS

----- 115510

R 171727Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

SECRET STATE 163674

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: INT, CB

SUBJECT: LON NON'S FUTURE PLANS

REF: PHNOM PENH 8538

1. THUS FAR HARBEN AND MAJOR ARMSTRONG HAVE LEARNED THAT LON NON WILL TAKE THE WEEK OFF FOLLOWING THE END OF HIS US TOUR ON THE 20TH. HE HAS SAID THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO COMMENCE THE OFFICIAL WASHINGTON PORTION OF HIS VISIT ON AUGUST 27. FOLLOWING THAT PERIOD, WHICH COULD STRETCH TO A WEEK OR 10 DAYS, HE HAS SAID THAT HE WANTS TO LEAVE SEPTEMBER 15 AT THE LATEST. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO INTEREST HIM IN A PROGRAM OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING AND/OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRAINING. HARBEN REPORTS THAT LON NON HAS BEEN MUCH FASCINATED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IRVINE CORPORATION IN CALIFORNIA, PARTICULARLY THAT FIRM'S OPERATIONS IN SUB-TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES. HE HAS EXPRESSED GRANDIOSE IDEAS CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POSSIBILITIES IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC. FAILING THIS, WE ARE CONSIDERING ENROLLING HIM IN A MILITARY SCHOOL. HOWEVER, HARBEN

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ALSO REPORTS THAT HE HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN TO "HIS TROOPS IN THE FIELD." HE MAKES DAILY CALLS TO THE EMBASSY HERE TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT HARBEN AND ALLAN ARMSTRONG FEED HIM ABOUT THE LOCAL SITUATION BASED ON YOUR UNCLASSI-

FIED SITUATIONER. (HAPPILY, THE PRESS HAVE NOT FOUND HIM.) HE HAS TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES BEEN OUT OF TOUCH FOR THE PAST SIX WEEKS AND WHEN HE LEARNS OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, HE MAY BE HARD TO HOLD.

2. WE SHALL USE ALL OF OUR PERSUASIVE POWERS TO KEEP HIM HERE AND WE BELIEVE THAT UM SIM WILL BACK US ON THIS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THOUGH, IT MAY REQUIRE YOUR INTERCES-SION WITH THE GKR TO ORDER HIM TO STAY HERE. HARBEN HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT LON NON TOLD HIM AUGUST 16 THAT LON NON'S UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT HE WAS TO REMAIN OUT OF CAM-BODIA FOR 90 DAYS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE "DELICATE NEGOTIA-TIONS", THEN EN TRAIN. SINCE THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS NOW IN EVIDENCE, NON BELIEVES HE SHOULD RETURN.

3. WE SHALL BE EXPLORING THIS IN DEPTH OVER THE WEEKEND AFTER HIS ESCORTS RETURN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL TO KEEP HIM HERE FOR AN EX-TENDED PERIOD. ROGERS

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